

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 03240

RW MESSAGE NO. 14

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIO-
LOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION,
ROUND FOUR: SIXTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 28, 1978

REF: A. GENEVA 2986; B. GENEVA 1930

1. SUMMARY: AT THE SIXTH MEETING ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS
(RW) ON FEBRUARY 28, U.S. DEL PRESSED ONCE AGAIN FOR
EXPLANATION OF WHY SOVIETS HAVE CHANGED THEIR DEFINITION
OF NON-EXPLOSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS (REF A) AND INFORMED
SOVIET DEL THAT U.S. DEL WOULD SEEK WASHINGTON APPROVAL
TO DROP THE WORD "NATURAL" FROM THE PHRASE "NATURAL DECAY
OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL" IN REVISED U.S. ELEMENT NO. TWO.
SOVIET DEL MADE BRIEF PRESENTATION ON THE FUNCTIONS OF
THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND POINTED OUT THAT THE
PROVISIONS REGARDING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS IN
THE CONTEXT OF ONE AGREEMENT (I.E., CW) DID NOT NECES-
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SARILY APPLY IN ANOTHER. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING
GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION WAS HELD TUESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 28, AT
THE U.S. MISSION. AMBASSADOR FISHER (HEAD OF U.S. DEL)
MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT RESPONDING TO SOVIET FEBRUARY 22

QUESTION ON WHY THE U.S. INCLUDED THE WORD "NATURAL" IN THE PHRASE "NATURAL DECAY OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL" IN ITS REVISED ELEMENT TWO. FISHER SAID THAT RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES ARE COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD TO DECAY "NATURALLY" AND AGREED THAT USING THE WORD "NATURAL" IN OUR REVISED ELEMENT TWO MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD SEEK WASHINGTON APPROVAL TO DROP THE WORD "NATURAL." FISHER

ALSO PRESSED SOVIET DEL AGAIN TO JUSTIFY CHANGING THE SOVIET DEFINITION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS (SEE REF A) SAYING THAT THE SOVIET FORMULATION, "NUCLEAR WEAPONS PERFORMING BY EXPLOSION," WAS NOT ADEQUATE. THE SOVIET DEL DID NOT RESPOND TO THIS POINT.

3. AMBASSADOR LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (ELEMENT SIX) STATING THAT THE FUNCTIONS AND PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN SOVIET ARTICLE SIX AND THE ANNEX TO THE SOVIET DRAFT CONVENTION ENSURED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE. LIKHATCHEV ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE PROVISIONS WORKED OUT IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER AGREEMENTS (I.E., CHEMICAL WEAPONS) SHOULD NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDED IN THE RW CONVENTION. "IN OUR VIEW," HE SAID, "WHAT IS REQUIRED HERE IS AN APPROACH WHICH, IN EACH CASE, WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER CONSIDERATION."

VANDEN HEUVEL
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